

Text of Address by the Chief Guest H.E. Dr. K. Rosaiah, Governor of Tamil Nadu, at the Annual Convocation on 13th October 2012, at Chennai (52nd NAMS Annual Conference)

I am very happy to inaugurate the 52nd Annual Conference and Convocation of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), which is being conducted by The Tamil Nadu Dr. M. G. R. Medical University and Madras ENT Research Foundation, from 12th to 14th October, 2012.

I am happy to note that this prestigious conference brings together nearly 200 senior, eminent professionals in various fields of medicine from all parts of India. This conference includes Orations on various aspects of Medicine, including a special symposium on cutting-edge research on Medical Nano-technology and a full day CME program on the theme of “Advance in Surgery”.

I am proud to highlight that the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) is a unique institution which fosters and utilizes academic excellence as its resource to meet medical and social goals. It was inaugurated at New Delhi on 19th December 1961 by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The first Convocation of the Academy was held on 8th December, 1963 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and the Convocation Address was delivered by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India.

National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) is the most reputed and highest scientific body in this country today and it has among its list of eminent fellows, pioneers like the former President of India, Prof. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The list of eminent persons who have been conferred Honorary Fellowship of the Academy in the past also includes former Prime ministers of India Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi, and Shri PV Narasimha Rao.

Since its inception, it is admirable that the National Academy of Medical Sciences has strived hard to fulfill the following objectives:

- (a) The promotion of knowledge of Medical Sciences in India and its practical application to problems of national welfare.
- (b) The recognition and encouragement of merit in all branches of Medical Sciences.
- (c) To effect co-ordination between medical and other scientific academies, societies, associations, institutions and Government medical and scientific departments.
- (d) To act through National Committees for medical scientific subjects for undertaking medical scientific work of national and international importance as the Academy may be called upon to perform by the public and the Government.
- (e) To publish proceedings, journals, memoirs, transactions and other medical publications.
- (f) To promote and maintain a liaison between medicine and other basic sciences.
- (g) To secure and manage funds and endowments for the promotion of medical sciences in India.

The Academy has been recognized by the Government of India as a Nodal Agency Continuing Education for Medical and Allied Health Professionals and is advising the Government of India in matters of National Health Policy and Planning.

A number of prestigious Orations and Awards have been instituted by the Academy and are bestowed every year upon eminent bio-medical scientists in recognition of their outstanding contributions. NAMS has organized a large number of successful Symposia on a number of important topics such as Medicine in the Twenty-first Century, Bio-social Dimensions of Poverty, Health Effects of Climate Change, Disaster Management, High Altitude Medicine, and Social Determinants of Health.

I appreciate the path-breaking research work happening in the field of health care in our country and the immense contribution and support given by the NAMS, in laying the foundation for translational research in India, bringing together scientists in basic sciences and clinical medicine. I request the eminent delegates assembled here to focus their future research in such a way that it will help improve the quality of healthcare in India and alleviate the sufferings of the common man.

Over the years the Academy has recognized the outstanding achievements made by the Indian scientists in the field of medicine and allied basic sciences and conferred Fellowship as well as Membership to the selected persons through a peer reviewed process and today I am happy to see around 80 eminent delegates gathered here in order to be inducted as Fellows and Members into this prestigious Academy. I congratulate all the newly elected Fellows and Members, who will receive their scrolls today and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

I congratulate the Organizing Chairman, Vice Chancellor of The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Padmashri Prof. Mayilvahanan Natarajan, and the Organizing Secretary, Padmashri Prof. Mohan Kameswaran, Managing Director, Madras ENT Research Foundation, and their team for successfully putting together such an interesting scientific event and arranging the Convocation in such a pleasant manner.
